

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 3-4 and 9-10 have been withdrawn from consideration. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional/continuation application directed to these claims. Applicants amend claims 1-2 and 7-8 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' 35 U.S.C. §119 priority claim and the receipt of all certified copies of priority documents. The Examiner is apparently requiring an English translation of the priority application under 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(4)(i)(C). Paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith an English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-336323, from which the present application claims priority. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the English translation and, correspondingly, perfection of the 35 U.S.C. §119 priority claim under 37 CFR § 1.55.

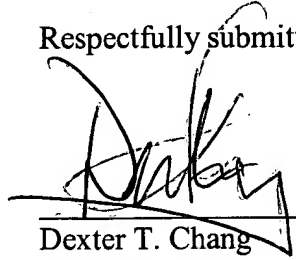
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 1-2, 5-8, and 11-12 contain allowable subject matter, and respectfully submit that the provided reasons for allowability include only the Examiner's interpretation, which should in no way limit the scope of the allowable claims.

The Examiner objected to the abstract and the specification for lacking support in the disclosure for the claimed invention. Correspondingly, claims 1-2, 5-8, and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants amend claims 1-2 and 7-8 to recite "an identifier," which is described in the abstract and the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the abstract and the specification, and withdraw the §112, ¶1 rejection.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dexter T. Chang', is written over a horizontal line.

Dexter T. Chang

Reg. No. 44,071

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-6384

Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987

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